

Research Article

Clarifying the phylogenetic placement of Eupoinae Maddison, 2015 (Araneae, Salticidae) with ultra-conserved element data

Junxia Zhang^{1,2}, Yi Ni^{1,2}, Kiran Marathe^{3,4}, Yaozhuo Wang^{1,2}, Wayne P. Maddison⁵

- 1 Key Laboratory of Zoological Systematics and Application, College of Life Sciences, Hebei University, Baoding, Hebei 071002, China
- 2 Hebei Basic Science Center for Biotic Interaction, Hebei University, Baoding, Hebei 071002, China
- 3 Department of Zoology and Beaty Biodiversity Museum, University of British Columbia, 6270 University Boulevard, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6T 1Z4, Canada
- 4 National Centre for Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, GKVK 11 Campus, Bengaluru, 560065, India
- 5 Departments of Zoology and Botany and Beaty Biodiversity Museum, University of British Columbia, 6270 University Boulevard, Vancouver, British Columbia, V6T 1Z4, Canada

Corresponding author: Junxia Zhang (jxzhang1976@163.com)



The subfamily Eupoinae Maddison, 2015 is an enigmatic group of minute leaf-litter-dwelling jumping spiders from Southeast Asia. Although previous molecular phylogenetic studies have suggested that it is one of the basal (non-salticine) lineages within jumping spiders, its exact placement remains unclear. In this study, ultra-conserved element data were collected from major salticid lineages to investigate the phylogenetic relationships of all salticid subfamilies, with a special focus on the placement of Eupoinae. The results provide a well-supported phylogeny for jumping spider subfamilies, and suggest a sister relationship of Eupoinae with Spartaeinae Wanless, 1984, a basal lineage of jumping spiders with relatively high species diversity and morphological and behavioural diversity. With the placement of Eupoinae, we have resolved the relationships of all salticid subfamilies, supplying a robust framework for evolutionary studies of jumping spiders.

Key words: Basal lineages, Eupoines, jumping spiders, phylogenomics, UCE



Academic editor: Shuqiang Li Received: 17 August 2024 Accepted: 11 October 2024 Published: 12 November 2024

ZooBank: https://zoobank.org/ C376ECBC-A3FB-4835-8373-628FD04CFD4B

Citation: Zhang J, Ni Y, Marathe K, Wang Y, Maddison WP (2024)
Clarifying the phylogenetic placement of Eupoinae Maddison, 2015 (Araneae, Salticidae) with ultra-conserved element data. ZooKeys 1217: 343–351. https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.1217.134940

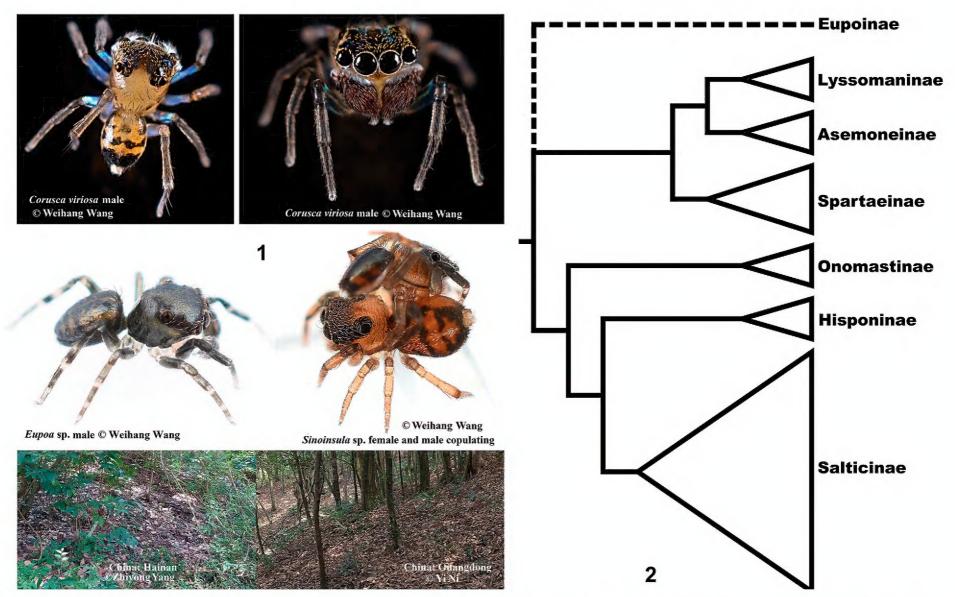
Copyright: © Junxia Zhang et al.

This is an open access article distributed under terms of the Creative Commons Attribution

License (Attribution 4.0 International – CC BY 4.0).

Introduction

Salticidae Blackwall, 1841 (jumping spiders) comprises seven subfamilies: Asemoneinae Maddison, 2015, Eupoinae Maddison, 2015, Hisponinae Simon 1901, Lyssomaninae Blackwall, 1841, Onomastinae Maddison, 2015, Spartaeinae Wanless, 1984, and Salticinae Blackwall, 1841 (Maddison 2015). Among them, the subfamily Eupoinae Maddison, 2015 was erected to include an enigmatic group of leaf-litter dwelling jumping spiders known from southern China, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Laos, and India (Maddison 2015; Fig. 1). Currently 43 species of four genera (*Corusca* Zhou & Li, 2013, *Eupoa* Żabka, 1985, *Megaeupoa* Lin & Li, 2020, and *Sinoinsula* Zhou & Li, 2013) have been described in this subfamily (World Spider Catalog 2024). They are mostly minute spiders, with body size ranging from 1.5 to 5.6 mm, but they possess highly complex genitalic structures, especially the male palps (Żabka 1985; Zhou and Li 2013; Lin and Li 2020).



Figures 1, 2. Eupoinae and summary phylogeny of Salticidae 1 photos of living spiders of eupoines and microhabitats 2 summary phylogeny of salticid subfamilies (modified from Maddison et al. 2017).

So far, the phylogenetic relationships of all salticid subfamilies except Eupoinae have been clarified (Maddison et al. 2014, 2017; Fig. 2). Even though previous studies of morphology and molecular phylogeny have suggested that Eupoinae belongs to the basal (non-salticine) lineages of jumping spiders, its placement was unstable in analyses with only a few genes, and thus its exact position on the phylogeny remained uncertain (Maddison et al. 2007, 2014; Maddison 2015). Here we investigate the phylogenetic placement of Eupoinae using ultra-conserved element (UCE) data to fulfill the subfamily-level phylogeny of jumping spiders.

Materials and methods

All specimens are preserved in 85–100% ethanol and stored at –20 °C in the Museum of Hebei University, Baoding, China (MHBU) and the Spencer Entomological Collection at the Beaty Biodiversity Museum, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada (UBCZ). The ultra-conserved elements (UCEs) were obtained for 70 taxa that include 68 salticids covering all seven subfamilies and two outgroups (one each of Cheiracanthiidae and Philodromidae). Among them, data were newly collected for 57 taxa in this study, while data for an additional 13 taxa were obtained from previous publications (Zhang et al. 2023; Lin et al. 2024; Yu et al. 2024; Marathe et al. 2024a, 2024b; see Suppl. material 1: table S1 for detailed information). Genomic DNA was extracted using the QIAGEN DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit. The library preparation was performed with the NEXTFLEX Rapid DNA-Seq Kit 2.0 and the NEXTFLEX Unique Dual Index

Barcodes (Set C) (Bioo Scientific) following the protocols described in Zhang et al. (2023). UCE enrichment followed the myBaits protocol 5.01 (Daicel Arbor Biosciences) using a modified version of the RTA probes, the "RTA_v3" probe set (42,213 probes targeting 3818 UCE loci; Zhang et al. 2023). The enriched UCE libraries were then sequenced using the Illumina NovaSeq platform with 150-bp paired-end reads. The UCE loci were extracted from the empirically enriched and sequenced raw reads following the protocols applied in Zhang et al. (2023) with the PHYLUCE (Faircloth 2016) workflow. For seven species with whole genome sequencing data, the genomes were first assembled using the Phylogenomics from Low-coverage Whole-genome Sequencing (PLWS) pipeline (Zhang et al. 2019), and then the UCEs were harvested using the "RTA_v3" probes and the PHYLUCE workflow (see Zhang et al. 2023 for details).

The UCEs extracted from genomes and target enrichment data were combined and organized by locus, and then aligned using Mafft v. 7.313 (Katoh and Standley 2013) with the L-INS-I strategy. Poorly aligned regions were initially trimmed by the heuristic method "-automated1" in trimAl v. 1.4.1 (Capella-Gutiérrez et al. 2009). We then applied Spruceup v. 2020.2.19 (Borowiec 2019) to convert the remaining obviously misaligned fragments to gaps in each alignment (cutoff as 0.7). The gappy regions in each alignment were later masked using Seqtools (PASTA; Mirarab et al. 2014) with "masksites = 35". An individual gene tree was constructed for each alignment using RAxML v. 8.2.12 (Stamatakis 2014) with the GTRGAMMA model. Gene trees were then inspected using TreeShrink v. 1.3.1 (Mai and Mirarab 2018) to detect and remove sequences that resulted in abnormally long branches on the gene tree. Loci with a length less than 150 bp or less than 50% of taxon occupancy were removed, which resulted in 2685 loci in the final dataset for phylogenetic inference. All remaining UCE loci were concatenated by FASconCAT v. 1.0 (Kück and Meusemann 2010). The maximum-likelihood (ML) analyses were conducted in IQ-TREE v. 2.0.6 (Minh et al. 2020) with the best-fitting model and optimized partition scheme inferred using the option "-m MF+MERGE". Twenty independent ML tree searches (ten with random starting trees and ten with parsimonious starting trees) were run with the optimized model and partition scheme, and 5000 replicates of ultrafast bootstrap analysis were conducted to assess the node supports. The coalescent-based species-tree method to account for potential gene tree heterogeneity and discordance was also applied. First, the ML tree and 1000 ultrafast bootstrap replicates were inferred in IQ-TREE v. 2.0.6 for each of the remaining UCE loci using the best-fitting model selected by ModelFinder (Kalyaanamoorthy et al. 2017). For each gene tree, the branches with bootstrap ≤ 50% were collapsed by Newick Utils v. 1.6 (Junier and Zdobnov 2010). The Accurate Species Tree Algorithm (ASTRAL-III v. 5.7.1; Zhang et al. 2018) was then applied to estimate the species tree with 100 replicates of bootstrapping to assess the node support.

Data resources

The sequenced raw reads were submitted to the GenBank with accession numbers provided in Suppl. material 1: table S1. The alignments of UCE loci, the final concatenated UCE dataset, and the resulting phylogenetic trees are deposited in the Dryad Data Repository at https://doi.org/10.5061/dryad.z08kprrph.

Results

The final concatenated dataset of 2685 UCE loci contained 1,109,833 bp and 354,024 parsimony-informative sites. The ML tree is presented in Fig. 3, and the ASTRAL tree is shown in Suppl. material 2: fig. S1. Both results are congruent in the relationships of the salticid subfamilies and strongly support the sister relationship of Eupoinae with Spartaeinae (Fig. 3, Suppl. material 2: fig. S1). Most nodes on the phylogenies gain full support (bootstrap = 100%), with only a few exceptions among the relatively shallower relationships, such as the node with Salticus scenicus (Clerck, 1757), Evarcha proszynskii Marusik & Logunov, 1998, and Bianor maculatus (Keyserling, 1883) (ML bootstrap = 99%, ASTRAL bootstrap = 92%; Fig. 3, Suppl. material 2: fig. S1). The ML and species trees only show minor differences in the relationships of species within Brettus Thorell, 1895 and Onomastus Simon, 1900 (Fig. 3, Suppl. material 2: fig. S1).

Discussion

Since the establishment of the genus Eupoa by Żabka (1985), resolving its phylogenetic position has been particularly intriguing due to the unusual male palpal structures observed in this group. Based on two morphological characteristics, the presence of a median apophysis in the male palp and of a tarsal claw in the female palp, Eupoa was suggested to be excluded from the clade Salticinae, which contains the bulk of jumping spider diversity (Maddison et al. 2007). Sequences of nuclear and mitochondrial genes (28S, 18S, wingless, 16S-ND1, CO1) were obtained for Eupoa nezha Maddison & Zhang, 2007 to investigate its position on the jumping spider phylogeny (Maddison et al. 2007, 2014). Analyses of these gene regions tended to place *Eupoa* among basal (non-Salticinae) salticids, but they failed to find a clear placement (Maddison et al. 2007, 2014), with Eupoa usually outside Salticinae, but occasionally attaching to the long-branched agorines among Salticinae. This may reflect an unusual compositional bias in eupoines (Maddison et al. 2014), or perhaps simply that the limited number of markers that could not resolve the recalcitrant phylogenetic relationships resulting from the rapid radiation of jumping spiders. Later, the genome-wide sequence data were applied to clarify jumping spider phylogeny using the anchored hybrid enrichment (AHE) method. However, no eupoine was included due to a lack of material (Maddison et al. 2017). In this study, seven species from three genera (Corusca, Eupoa, and Sinoinsula) of Eupoinae, along with other major lineages of Salticidae (Suppl. material 1: table S1, Fig. 3), were sampled in the UCE-based phylogenomic analyses. The UCE phylogeny (Fig. 3) recovered the same relationships for the six salticid subfamilies as the AHE result (Maddison et al. 2017; Fig. 2). Unlike previous implications that eupoines may represent a deep-branching lineage long separate from lyssomanines, spartaeines, and other basal groups (Maddison et al. 2007), the UCE phylogenomic results strongly support a sister relationship of Eupoinae with Spartaeinae, which show considerable diversity in morphology and behavior (Wanless 1984; Su et al. 2007).

Although this study did not aim to solve the phylogeny within Eupoinae, the UCE results strongly support a relationship of (*Eupoa* (*Corusca*, *Sinoinsula*)) (Fig. 3, Suppl. material 2: fig. S1). Due to the lack of material, the genus

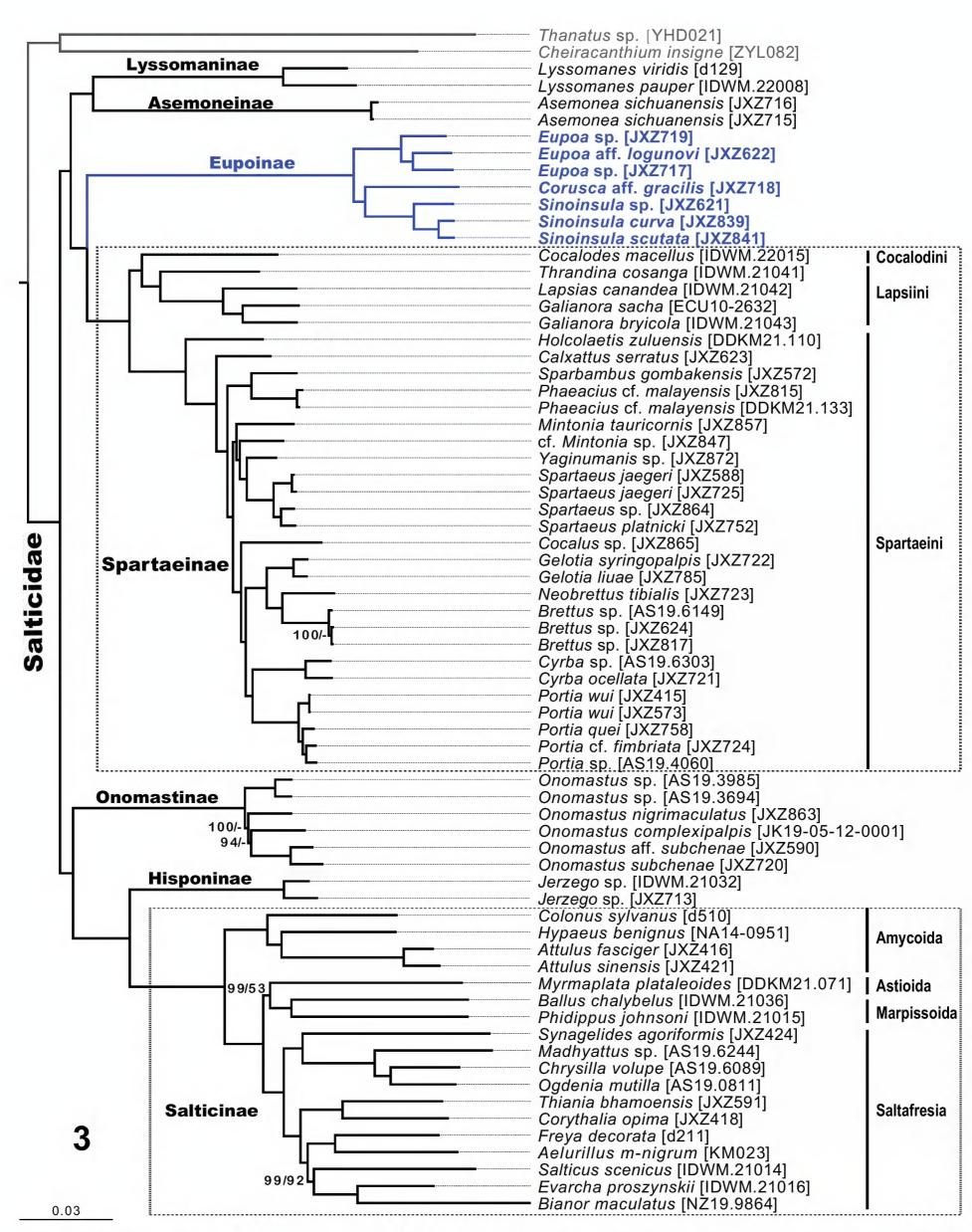


Figure 3. Phylogenetic results. Tree shown is the maximum-likelihood tree from the UCE dataset; numbers along the branches indicate bootstrap support values from the ML (before "/") and ASTRAL (after "/") analyses, only numbers lower than 100% are shown; "-" indicates this node is not recovered in the ASTRAL analysis.

Megaeupoa was not sampled in the UCE phylogenomic analyses. Species of Megaeupoa also have perplexing male palpal structures like other eupoines, but show significant differences in the somatic characteristics, such as their rather large body size (almost twice as large as species of the other three genera), the presence of a fovea (absent in the other three genera), and the absence of typical eupoine markings (paired paled-colored spots on the abdomen) (Żabka 1985; Maddison et al. 2007; Zhou and Li 2013; Maddison 2015; Lin and Li 2020). Therefore, whether the Megaeupoa indeed belongs to Eupoinae or represents an independent lineage in the basal salticids requires further investigation.

It is worth mentioning that although the known species diversity of Eupoinae has dramatically increased in the past decade (Zhou and Li 2013; Logunov and Marusik 2014; Lin and Li 2020; Ying et al. 2021; Wang and Li 2022; Wang et al. 2023; Logunov 2024), we expect that many more species remain to be discovered. Future thorough comparative morphological studies, especially on the genitalic organs, will help to pinpoint the synapomorphies for the clade containing Eupoinae and Spartaeinae, as well as different lineages within Eupoinae.

Acknowledgements

We thank Weihang Wang and Zhiyong Yang for providing photographs of eupoines and microhabitat, the Hebei Basic Science Center for Biotic Interaction, and the National Animal Collection Resource Center of China for support. We also thank the three reviewers, Dr Tamás Szűts, Cheng Wang, and Dmitri V. Logunov, and the subject editor, Dr Shuqiang Li for their valuable comments that helped to improve the manuscript.

Additional information

Conflict of interest

The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

Ethical statement

No ethical statement was reported.

Funding

This work was funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China (grant no. 32070422), and the Natural Science Foundation of Hebei Province (grant no. C2024201017) to Junxia Zhang.

Author contributions

Conceptualization: JZ, WP. Data acquirement: JZ, YW, KM. Formal analysis: JZ. Resources: JZ, WP, KM. Visualization: YN. Writing – original draft: JZ, YN. Writing – review and editing: JZ, WP, KM.

Author ORCIDs

Junxia Zhang https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2179-3954
Yi Ni https://orcid.org/0009-0003-3239-3697

Kiran Marathe https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7364-3475

Yaozhuo Wang https://orcid.org/0009-0007-3252-1838

Wayne P. Maddison https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4953-4575

Data availability

All of the data that support the findings of this study are available in the main text or Supplementary Information.

References

- Borowiec ML (2019) Spruceup: Fast and flexible identification, visualization, and removal of outliers from large multiple sequence alignments. Journal of Open Source Software 4(42): 1635. https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.01635
- Capella-Gutiérrez S, Silla-Martínez JM, Gabaldón T (2009) trimAl: A tool for automated alignment trimming in large-scale phylogenetic analyses. Bioinformatics (Oxford, England) 25(15): 1972–1973. https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btp348
- Faircloth BC (2016) PHYLUCE is a software package for the analysis of conserved genomic loci. Bioinformatics (Oxford, England) 32(5): 786–788. https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btv646
- Junier T, Zdobnov EM (2010) The Newick utilities: Highthroughput phylogenetic tree processing in the UNIX shell. Bioinformatics 26(13): 1669–1670. https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btq243
- Kalyaanamoorthy S, Minh BQ, Wong TKF, von Haeseler A, Jermiin LS (2017) ModelFinder: Fast model selection for accurate phylogenetic estimates. Nature Methods 14(6): 587–591. https://doi.org/10.1038/nmeth.4285
- Katoh K, Standley DM (2013) MAFFT multiple sequence alignment software version 7: Improvements in performance and usability. Molecular Biology and Evolution 30(4): 772–780. https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/mst010
- Kück P, Meusemann K (2010) FASconCAT: Convenient handling of data matrices. Molecular Phylogenetics and Evolution 56(3): 1115–1118. https://doi.org/10.1016/j. ympev.2010.04.024
- Lin Y, Li S (2020) Two new genera and eight new species of jumping spiders (Araneae, Salticidae) from Xishuangbanna, Yunnan, China. ZooKeys 952: 95–128. https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.952.51849
- Lin L, Yang Z, Zhang J (2024) Revalidation of the jumping spider genus *Cheliceroides* Żabka, 1985 based on molecular and morphological data (Araneae, Salticidae). Zoo-Keys 1196: 243–253. https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.1196.117921
- Logunov DV (2024) Jumping spiders (Araneae: Salticidae) of the Bidoup-Nui Ba National Park, Lam Dong Province, Vietnam. Arachnology 19(8): 1074–1099. https://doi.org/10.13156/arac.2024.19.8.1074
- Logunov DV, Marusik YM (2014) Taxonomic notes on the genus *Eupoa* Żabka, 1985 (Arachnida, Araneae, Salticidae). ZooKeys 410: 63–93. https://doi.org/10.3897/zoo-keys.410.7548
- Maddison WP (2015) A phylogenetic classification of jumping spiders (Araneae: Salticidae). The Journal of Arachnology 43(3): 231–292. https://doi.org/10.1636/arac-43-03-231-292
- Maddison WP, Zhang JX, Bodner MR (2007) A basal phylogenetic placement for the salticid spider *Eupoa*, with descriptions of two new species (Araneae: Salticidae). Zootaxa 1432(1): 22–33. https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.1432.1.2

- Maddison WP, Li D, Bodner M, Zhang J, Xu X, Liu Q, Liu F (2014) The deep phylogeny of jumping spiders (Araneae, Salticidae). ZooKeys 440: 57–87. https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.440.7891
- Maddison WP, Evans SC, Hamilton CA, Bond JE, Lemmon AR, Lemmon EM (2017) A genome-wide phylogeny of jumping spiders (Araneae, Salticidae), using anchored hybrid enrichment. ZooKeys 695: 89–101. https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.695.13852
- Mai U, Mirarab S (2018) TreeShrink: Fast and Accurate Detection of Outlier Long Branches in Collections of Phylogenetic Trees." BMC Genomics 19 (S5): 272. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12864-018-4620-2
- Marathe K, Maddison WP, Kunte K (2024a) *Ghatippus paschima*, a new species and genus of plexippine jumping spider from the Western Ghats of India (Salticidae, Plexippini, Plexippina). ZooKeys 1191: 89–103. https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.1191.114117
- Marathe K, Tripathi R, Sudhikumar AV, Maddison WP (2024b) Phylogenomic placement and revision of *Iranattus* Prószyński, 1992 jumping spiders (Salticidae, Plexippini, Plexippina). Zoosystematics and Evolution 100(2): 531–542. https://doi.org/10.3897/zse.100.122034
- Minh BQ, Schmidt HA, Chernomor O, Schrempf D, Woodhams MD, Von Haeseler A, Lanfear R (2020) IQ-TREE 2: New models and efficient methods for phylogenetic inference in the genomic era. Molecular Biology and Evolution 37(5): 1530–1534. https://doi.org/10.1093/molbev/msaa015
- Mirarab S, Nguyen N, Warnow T (2014) PASTA: Ultra-large multiple sequence alignment. In: Sharan R (Ed.) Research in Computational Molecular Biology. RECOMB 2014. Lecture Notes in Computer Science. Springer, Cham, 177–191. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-05269-4_15
- Stamatakis A (2014) RAxML version 8: A tool for phylogenetic analysis and post-analysis of large phylogenies. Bioinformatics 30(9): 1312–1313. https://doi.org/10.1093/bioinformatics/btu033
- Su KF, Meier R, Jackson RR, Harland DP, Li D (2007) Convergent evolution of eye ultrastructure and divergent evolution of vision-mediated predatory behaviour in jumping spiders. European Society for Evolutionary Biology 20(4): 1478–1489. https://doi. org/10.1111/j.1420-9101.2007.01335.x
- Wang C, Li S (2022) On eleven species of jumping spiders from Xishuangbanna, China (Araneae, Salticidae). ZooKeys 1116: 85–119. https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.1116.82858
- Wang C, Li S, Pham DS (2023) Thirteen species of jumping spiders from northern Vietnam (Araneae, Salticidae). ZooKeys 1148: 119–165. https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.1148.98271
- Wanless FR (1984) A review of the spider subfamily Spartaeinae nom. n. (Araneae: Salticidae) with descriptions of six new genera. Bulletin of the British Museum of Natural History (Zool.) 46: 135–205. https://doi.org/10.5962/bhl.part.15964
- World Spider Catalog (2024) World Spider Catalog. Version 25.5. Natural History Museum Bern. https://doi.org/10.24436/2 [Accessed on 9 September 2024]
- Ying Y, Yuan S, Sun W, Xiao Y, Liu K (2021) A new *Eupoa* Żabka, 1985 species from south China (Araneae: Salticidae). Acta Arachnologica Sinica 30(1): 41–52. https://doi.org/10.3969/j.issn.1005-9628.2021.01.007
- Yu K, Zhang F, Wang Y, Maddison WP, Zhang J (2024) Robust phylogenomics settles controversies of classification and reveals evolution of male embolic complex of the Laufeia clade (Araneae, Salticidae, Euophryini). Cladistics. https://doi.org/10.1111/cla.12597

Żabka M (1985) Systematic and zoogeographic study on the family Salticidae (Araneae) from Viet-Nam. Annales Zoologici 39(11): 197–485.

Zhang C, Rabiee M, Sayyari E, Mirarab S (2018) ASTRAL-III: Polynomial time species tree reconstruction from partially resolved gene trees. BMC Bioinformatics 19(S6): 15–30. https://doi.org/10.1186/s12859-018-2129-y

Zhang F, Ding Y, Zhu CD, Zhou X, Orr MC, Scheu S, Luan YX (2019) Phylogenomics from low-coverage whole-genome sequencing. Methods in Ecology and Evolution 10(4): 507–517. https://doi.org/10.1111/2041-210X.13145

Zhang J, Li Z, Lai J, Zhang F (2023) A novel probe set for the phylogenomics and evolution of RTA spiders. Cladistics 39(2): 116–128. https://doi.org/10.1111/cla.12523

Zhou Y, Li S (2013) Two new genera of jumping spiders from Hainan Island, China (Araneae, Salticidae). Zootaxa 3712(1): 1–84. https://doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3712.1.1

Supplementary material 1

Specimen information and summary of harvested UCE loci

Authors: Junxia Zhang, Yi Ni, Kiran Marathe, Yaozhuo Wang, Wayne P. Maddison Data type: xlsx

Copyright notice: This dataset is made available under the Open Database License (http://opendatacommons.org/licenses/odbl/1.0/). The Open Database License (ODbL) is a license agreement intended to allow users to freely share, modify, and use this Dataset while maintaining this same freedom for others, provided that the original source and author(s) are credited.

Link: https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.1217.134940.suppl1

Supplementary material 2

Phylogenetic result from the ASTRAL analysis

Authors: Junxia Zhang, Yi Ni, Kiran Marathe, Yaozhuo Wang, Wayne P. Maddison Data type: pdf

Explanation note: Numbers along the branches indicate bootstrap support values, only numbers lower than 100% are shown; clades with different relationships from the maximum-likelihood tree are marked in red.

Copyright notice: This dataset is made available under the Open Database License (http://opendatacommons.org/licenses/odbl/1.0/). The Open Database License (ODbL) is a license agreement intended to allow users to freely share, modify, and use this Dataset while maintaining this same freedom for others, provided that the original source and author(s) are credited.

Link: https://doi.org/10.3897/zookeys.1217.134940.suppl2

